

Message Text

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12
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ARA-16 NEA-10 RSR-01 /156 W
----- 089068

P R 150308Z AUG 73
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9061
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2877

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UN RQ
SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

1. AT ITS FIRST MEETING OF YEAR AFTERNOON AUG 14, UN SPECIAL COMITE OF 24'S WORKING GROUP, AFTER RELATIVELY BRIEF DISCUSSION OF PR ITEM, AGREED BY CONSENSUS TO REFER ENTIRE QUESTION BACK TO COMITE PLENARY FOR DECISION ON HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED.

2. AUSTRALIAN DEL ON COMITE OF 24 (DEPUTY PERMREP CAMPBELL, WHO HAS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY COOPERATIVE WITH USUN ON ALL COMITE 24 MATTERS) SUPPLIED MISOFF WITH FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON WG DEBATE. AUSTRALIA AND IRAN, FIRST SPEAKERS, ARGUED THAT WG SHOULD RECOMMEND TO PLENARY THAT CONSIDERATION OF "COMPLEX PR QUESTION" BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT YEAR. BULGARIA, CONGO, IRAQ AND TANZANIA TOOK OPPOSITE TACK BY URGING WG TO RECOMMEND THAT PLENARY EXAMINE PR QUESTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CONGO AND IRAQ ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF COMITE'S GRANTING HEARING TO PR INDEPENDENCE LEADERS IN ORDER TO "GAIN FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUE".

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VENEZUELA PRESENT BUT DID NOT SPEAK. ETHIOPIA AND TRINIDAD/

TOBAGO DID NOT ATTEND. COMITE CHAIRMAN SALIM PROPOSED THAT IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITHIN WG, ENTIRE QUESTION BE REFERRED BACK TO PLENARY AND HIS SUGGESTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

3. MEETING OF COMITE OF 24 PLENARY DEVOTED TO PUERTO RICO NOW SCHEDULED FOR AUG 16.

4. USUN, WITH CONSIDERABLE HELP FROM AUSTRALIANS, IN PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH SUCH FRIENDLY DELS ON COMITE AS ETHIOPIA, FIJI, IVORY COAST, INDONESIA AND SWEDEN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE BELIEVE NOTHING CAN BE GAINED BY OUR LOBBYING HERE WITH BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR USSR SINCE THEIR DELS AT UN VERY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH OUR CONCERNs. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT MAKE CLEAR TO THESE THREE NATIONS THAT THEIR ACTIVE INTERVENTION IN ISSUE THAT WE REGARD AS STRICTLY DOMESTIC MATTER CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIONS MAY NOT CHANGE WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF USSR AND ITS FRIENDS, FACT OF OUR MAKING THEM WILL HELP TO REASSURE PR GOVT OF OUR ACTIVE DEFENSE OF ITS INTERESTS IN UN.

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